

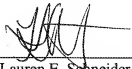
Appln No. 09/711,648
Amdt date February 3, 2009
Reply to Office action of November 3, 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action dated November 3, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20, 23-28, 30-35, 39 and 42-47 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Abele, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,403,311) in view of one or more of West, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,318,525) and Cosman (U.S. Patent No. 4,966,597). In making this rejection, the Examiner argues that it would have been obvious to "use the puller wires of West with the catheter of Abele in order to controllably steer the catheter through the vasculature to the desired treatment location in the body." Office action, page 3. However, none of Abele, West and Cosman teach or suggest *both* a needle control handle *and* a deflection control handle, *separate from the needle control handle*, as recited in independent claims 1, 9 and 23. Indeed, none of Abele, West and Cosman, alone or in combination teach or suggest the use of more than one control handle. As such, independent claims 1, 9 and 23, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-8, 10-20, 24-28, 30-35, 39 and 42-47, are allowable over Abele, West and Cosman.

Claims 1-20, 23-28, 30-35, 39 and 42-47 remain pending in this application. In view of the above remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-20, 23-28, 30-35, 39 and 42-47 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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